

Inside Your Third

The Newsletter for the Third Taxing District Electric Department

2 Second Street • East Norwalk, CT 06855

Your Commission

David L. Brown
Chairman

Stephen M. Feinstein
Commissioner

Paul S. Coggin
Commissioner

John A. Stoops
Treasurer

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 18th TTD Commission Meeting at 7:00 pm at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street
- Feb. 7th TTD Commission Meeting at 7:00 pm at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street
- Feb. 23rd TTD Commission Meeting at 7:00 pm at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street
- March 7th TTD Commission Meeting at 7:00 pm at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street
- March 21st TTD Commission Meeting at 7:00 pm at Van Zilen Hall 51 Van Zant Street

Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

The holiday spirit was alive and well in East Norwalk this year as many homes were decorated for the holidays. Choosing just three winners throughout the District became an almost impossible task because so many homeowners went to a great deal of effort and expense to decorate their homes and yards for the holidays. One decorator even had the ingenuity to not only display an inflatable snowman, but an abominable snowman complete with a green face and fangs.

Hats off and a special word of recognition has to go to the North Bridge Street neighborhood for their combined effort in having the most decorated group of houses in East Norwalk. For any of you who missed it this year, it's well worth the time to write it down so you remember it next year. In fact, one of our winners and one of our honorable mentions come from that area.

The contest was open to all customers of the Third Taxing District Electric Department and a volunteer panel of judges did judging. The judges included Jackie Lightfield, President of blowtorch.com a local graphic and Web design firm; Tony Masi, Owner of Signs by Anthony, and Anthony Mobilia, Art Director of a major New York advertising firm.



First place winners - Paul, Owen and Cheryl Mehle of 34 Cove Avenue.

In the residential category first place was awarded to Cheryl, Owen & Paul Mehle of 34 Cove Avenue whose display celebrated the theme of "Ice Boating on the Mill Stream". Second place went to Edward F. Forcier Sr. of 6 Bridge Street and third place went to Priscilla and Peter Goldner of 13 Marion Avenue. Honorable mentions went to Rose Sferlazza of 4 Island Drive, the Hoyt-Larosa family of 49 North Bridge Street and Joe & Suzanne Buffone of 5 Naples Avenue. In the commercial category, first place was awarded to Partners Café of 1 Cove Avenue.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to all the participants and non-participants for making East Norwalk a special place to live.

Business of the Month

EAST AVENUE PIZZA



East Avenue Pizza, the first pizza parlor in East Norwalk, is conveniently located at 84 Fort Point Street, just one building away from their original location.

Located in a newly renovated building at 84 Fort Point Street, East Avenue Pizza was East Norwalk's first pizza parlor. Originally located at the corner of East Avenue and Fort Point Street, the Stefanatos brothers, Louie and George, have been making what some critics say is the best pizza in Norwalk since 1972.

Among all their innovative Italian culinary firsts throughout the years, East Avenue Pizza was also the first pizzeria to offer home delivery. Whether you pick up a menu while you're there, have them fax you one or find it on the internet at <http://www.yellowpagesads.com/01403342>, just give them a call at 203-853-9955 to place your order and have it delivered directly to your door.

The size and diversity of the menu and the number of neatly appointed tables inside contradicts the appearance of a small restaurant from the outside. From the large selection of their famous thin crust pizza to a complete Pasta and Dinner menu, East Avenue Pizza offers some of the most generous portions in the city and at a price that won't drain your pocketbook. Approximately \$10.00 for a medium pizza to under \$8.00 for a complete pasta dinner.

Only one door up from the corner across the street from the railroad station, it's easy to pick up a quick family dinner on the way home from work. Store hours are Monday thru Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

This corner is one of the oldest historic sites in Norwalk. According to a Norwalk Historical Commission's plaque: "In 1651 Nathaniel Ely and Richard Olmstead led thirteen families from the Hartford area to "Norwauke" then referred to as the "Ludlow Grant". The first homes rose on both sides of a path, now East Avenue near its intersection with Fort Point Street."

Commission Increases Fuel Cost Rate

At its December 20th meeting, the Commission was forced to approve an increase to the "Fuel Cost" charge on customer's bills. After listening to detailed reports from their financial experts, Commissioners Brown and Coggin, with Commissioner Feinstein absent, agreed that the higher costs for electricity the District has been paying without reimbursement from its customers continues to put the District's financial viability and its ability to repay its \$5,000,000 debt to CMEEC in jeopardy.

Electric Department general manager George Leary presented figures showing that in 2004 the District has paid close to \$653,000 more for electricity than it has billed. "The difference came out of the "Rate Stabilization Fund" the District has built up over the years. In the past, this fund has been the hedge against higher costs of electricity during times of high use," Leary said. "Now with southwestern Connecticut being charged more for electricity than anywhere else this fund cannot continue to be the financial lifeline without additional revenues."

Commissioner Paul Coggin said that TTD Electric has one of the lowest rates in the state. "As witnessed by the increase in CL&P's rates, it is obvious that all electric suppliers in the area will be forced to increase their rates to keep ahead of the the spiraling costs charged by the electricity wholesalers," Coggin said. "Even with this increase we will still be more affordable than CL&P and, as in the past, our service will continue to be better than the competition."

Commission Chair David Brown pointed out the efforts the Commission has taken throughout the year to help mitigate the impact of the highest electricity wholesale costs in history. "We haven't been sitting still, we have been proactive in fighting these wholesale increases," Brown said. "We have personally lobbied at the state and federal levels by joining with other municipal utilities to oppose actions that allow the Power Pool to increase power costs in our region. We installed 6,000 KW of emergency generation in the District in hopes of defraying these higher costs, but it has not been enough. The increase we are proposing will go a long way in stabilizing our financial integrity".

Leary said the Power Pool blames the need for increased costs on the price of fuel oil - as much as \$50 per barrel in past weeks - being passed on by local generation facilities, the lack of an adequate number of transmission and generation facilities in SW Conn., and the special price adders imposed by the Power Pool to encourage more generation and transmission facilities in SW Conn.

In agreeing to the higher fuel cost adjustment rate, Coggin and Brown pointed out that there has not been a base rate increase in over twenty years. "We have agreed to test this increase for three months, then reevaluate our cash flow position at that time," Brown said. "We will continue to monitor and lobby for lower wholesale rates in the future, as we have done in the past."